

Marc E. Mann, MD
50 Underhill Rd.
Hamden, CT 06517
February 19, 2023

Dear Legislators:

Testimony Regarding Bill No. HB-06659 and Music Haven

I provide this written testimony to alert you to the fact that the line item for Music Haven is missing from the Governor's budget proposal and to request that you restore this \$100,000 annual allocation.

Music Haven was founded 17 years ago to provide 100% free musical instruction, instruments, and mentorship to youth from New Haven's neediest neighborhoods. Starting as 1st to 3rd graders and nurtured by world-class musicians, Music Haven students not only learn to express themselves through their music but develop resilience, self-confidence, and a path to a future filled with possibilities. Music Haven graduates have thrived in college and are pursuing careers ranging from arts education to business management. Music Haven students and their families tell us over and over how important Music Haven has been to their growth and success.

As Music Haven's Board Chair, I have been joined by hundreds of generous individuals who contribute annually to make Music Haven possible. However, we could not sustain this unique organization without the public support provided by the State of Connecticut, thanks to you, our legislators.

Upon restoring the \$100,000 annual allocation to Music Haven, you will be investing in the future of our children and our community. Please join us at Music Haven in keeping our promise to these children and helping them realize their dreams.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marc E. Mann, MD". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marc E. Mann, MD
Board Chair, Music Haven